



FIJI HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

GPO Private Mail Bag
SUVA, FIJI ISLANDS

File:FHRC report to UN High Comm for HR

August 29th 2007

Madame Louise Arbour,
The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,
Geneva.

Excellency,

Report of the Fiji Human Rights Commission on alleged breaches of international law and the 1997 Constitution of Fiji with respect to the December 5th 2006 events

The Fiji Human Rights Commission (FHRC) has the honour to submit to you its second Report on the December 5th 2006 events in Fiji. The first Part of our Report was published on January 4th 2007 and, we understand, was forwarded to you subsequently, though not by the Commission.

The Commission prepared this second report in response to a request made by the (now former) Chairman of the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions (ICC) to the Acting Chairperson of FHRC to provide comments on an initial communication sent to you by Fiji Human Rights Commissioner, Shamima Ali.

That initial communication was not copied to the Acting Chairperson of FHRC which placed our institution at a disadvantage. However, the ICC Chairman himself kindly forwarded a copy with attached documents to our Acting Chairperson in February when he sought his comments. One of these documents contained a matrix table which alleged that the removal of the Prime Minister of Fiji, among others, breached Articles 9, 12, 13, and 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; Articles 9 and 12 of

the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights and sections 23, 34 and 37 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Fiji Islands.

Under the circumstances the FHRC thought it appropriate to investigate these allegations. All other complaints of human rights violations continue to be investigated pursuant to the Human Rights Commission Act and regular up-dates are posted on our website www.humanrights.org.fj. They are also made available to the media in the public interest.

This second Report of our investigations is now submitted to the ICC, through Your Excellency, to be tabled at its Sub-committee on Accreditation meeting in October as requested. Since the matter is also before the courts the FHRC will not be making any further representation, for the time being, to the ICC.

The FHRC is not seeking a review of its status at the forthcoming ICC meeting.

I convey to Your Excellency assurances of our highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Shaista Shameem
DIRECTOR